Treatment of Sewage

6181. SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in large number of towns in the country there is no sewage facility;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this untreated sewage is being dumped into the rivers thus polluting them;

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for setting up sewage treatment alongwith the facility in all the towns of each State; and

(e) the amount allocated for the purpose during the Ninth Five Year Plan State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) As per the draft report on status of water supply, water generation, collection, treatment and disposal in Class I cities, 1994-95 of the Central Pollution Control Board, out of 299 Class I cities in the country only about 150 cities have some sort of sewerage system benefitting about 70% population in these cities. The total waste water generated in these cities is about 15775 mld of which only 3740 mld (24%) is getting treated either through primary of secondary sewage treatment facilities.

(c) and (d) The National river Conservation Directorate (NRCD) under Ministry of Environment and Forests has stated that under the Ganga Action Plan and National River Conservation Plan it is proposed to construct sewage treatment plants in 125 towns covering 23 rivers in the country.

It has further been informed that presently untreated sewage from most of these towns is flowing into the respective rivers.

(e) NRCD, Ministry of Environment & Forests has informed that Rs. 19.12 crores have been allocated for sewerage schemes, sewerage treatment plants and other allied works.

In so far as Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment is concerned proposals for provision of sewage, sewerage treatment and drainage facilities in the urban areas have been sent to Planning Commission.

Unlicenced Gold Refineries

6182. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the report of the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau, a number of unlicensed gold refineries are engaged in the refining of smuggled gold in certain areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action has been taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Information collected by the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau indicated the existence of some unlicensed refineries engaged in the refining of Gold in various commercial and residential premises in Delhi. Acting on specific information two unlicensed refineries were detected on 16.2.97 in Karol Bagh by the CEIB jointly with the Directorate of Enforcement and recovery of foreign exchange and gold effected. Since these refineries located in multistoreyed commercial buildings were using hazardous substances such as spirit, acid and other chemicals, the facts were reported to the Environment Ministry and MCD for taking appropriate action.

Clearance to Proposals

6183. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the numbers of proposals of Maharashtra Government regarding water supply to Greater Mumbai and other parts of the city pending for clearance; and

(b) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) . (a) One proposal has been received from the Government of Maharashtra, viz. the Bombay IV Middle Vaitarna Water Supply project for augmenting water supply to Greater Mumbai.

(b) The proposal has been recommended by this Ministry to the Department of Economic Affairs for exploring the possibility of obtaining external assistance from the World Bank. The Government of Maharashtra has also been requested to obtain the clearances of the Ministries of Water Resources, Environment and Forests, Planning Commission and the Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation.

Privatisation of Industries

6184. SHRI NITISH BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the manner in which Government propose to exercise control over the large number of industries which are being/privatised with a view to safe guard the interests of the labour force working in such industries;

(b) the number of industires/corporation privatised, so far in Bihar; and

(c) the manner in which the labour force in the